

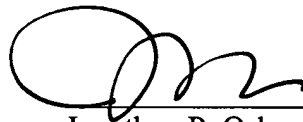
**REMARKS**

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. The above amendments were made solely to remove multiple dependencies and not in view of prior art. Newly added claims correspond to the removed multiple dependencies. Accordingly, the newly added claims are fully supported by the original specification and no new matter has been added. Also, the specification has been amended to put the abstract in an acceptable single paragraph.

Applicant believes this application to be in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 15115.106001).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/27/01



Jonathan P. Osha, Reg. No. 33,986  
ROSENTHAL & OSHA L.L.P.  
1221 McKinney, Suite 2800  
Houston, Texas 77010  
Telephone: (713) 228-8600  
Facsimile: (713) 228-8778